

opinion/editorial

Flexible hostage policy is responsibility of U.S.

The most critical lesson of the hostage crisis is in jeopardy because of fuming extremists who dwell on the insult of the Iran situation rather than conceding the United States was partially responsible.

Lowell Weicker Jr., a Republican senator from Connecticut, recently declared any Americans taken hostage in the future should be allowed to die before the United States submits to political blackmail, forcing the world power down from the perceived pedestal of omnipotence to bargain with other nations.

This view by one of the nation's leaders displays a disgusting attitude in ignorance of the country's

responsibility to its citizens and with total disregard for its obligation to respect the rights of other nations.

Weicker and those who may adhere to this opinion for handling hostage situations should concern themselves with doing all they can to ensure this kind of tragedy never occurs again. Such preventive and insightful measures would be far more beneficial to all concerned—the U.S. government, its citizens and representatives, and other societies than establishing a blanket foreign policy that would violate some of the most basic principles upon which this nation is founded.

Clearly the taking of the hostages was not a diplomatic or acceptable method of dealing with a world problem.

The United States, however, is not blameless. In supporting the dictatorial regime of the late Shah Pahlavi against the popular wishes of the Iranian people, the United States ignored their needs, setting its sights on the narrow, selfish goal of expanding the nation's capital gains at the expense of others.

Any nation that continually expounds the philosophies of liberty, justice and protection should be willing to make the sacrifices inherent with such noble princi-

ples. Among these sacrifices are allowing other nations freedom from American manipulation and acceptance of their values and desires.

There is a valuable lesson to be learned from the pain and suffering of the hostages and their families, as well as the blow dealt to the nation's honor.

Realizing the responsibility the United States has for protecting its citizens while respecting and upholding the rights of other nations is the only way to ensure the trauma incurred by the hostages doesn't go for naught.

Bonzo's cousin hurt by Reagan's snub

That Harvard-educated gorilla who finished only 49 electoral votes behind Jimmy Carter in the race for president is understandably bitter about not being appointed to Ronald Reagan's cabinet.

"Frankly," said the public-spirited simian, "I had rather counted on being the new secretary of education, seeing that Mr. Reagan is determined to dismantle that department. Much as I dislike tooting my own horn, I have a certain knack when it comes to dismantling things."

hoppe

The former matinee idol recalled that in the movie "Queen Kong," in which he played opposite a 35-foot-tall woman, he dismantled six police helicopters and an entire cheesecake factory before being felled by the Tac Squad and gastroenteritis.

"I had planned to smash the windows, tear the doors from their frames and rip out the wiring to make those pretty sparks fly all by myself," said the barrel-chested budget slasher. "I think this Utah educator, Terrell H. Bell, is going to have to hire a professional wrecking crew. He doesn't look like he could dismantle a telephone book, page by page."

The starry-eyed idealist said he was also disappointed over minority representation in the new cabinet.

"When it comes to picking representatives of minorities," he said, "Mr. Reagan has gone hog wild. Never have tinier minorities been represented in a cabinet. How many corporation lawyers, board chairmen and four-star generals does the president-elect think there are in America?"

The homespun political sage said he felt strongly that Mr. Reagan should have balanced his other cabinet secretaries by appointing one representative of a majority—either a woman or himself.

"Personally, I think I would have been a better choice as I come from a better majority," he said, "seeing that I am a devout member of The Moral Majority."

The former all-Pro middle linebacker, who is of the Episcopalian (low church) persuasion, said he was (1) pro-family ("but not the nuclear family, as I think families who don't have solar power should make do on ordinary electricity"); (2) in favor of prayer in the schools ("particularly before surprise quizzes"); (3) opposed to abortion on demand ("women should be more polite to their doctors"); and (4) a believer in the Biblical theory of creation.

"Do you realize there is not a single avowed creationist in the new administration?" demanded the bull-necked battler angrily. "This is a deliberate slap in the face for the noisy majority that elected Mr. Reagan."

Asked why he was so vehemently opposed to the Darwinian theory of evolution, the Ivy League intellectual drew himself up to his full five-foot-four.

"I have my pride," he said simply.

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Reagan encouraged to eliminate U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

WASHINGTON—When Budget Director Dave Stockman and his fellow tree surgeons get about pruning the giant oak of government, hopefully, they will not overlook the small, dead branch known as the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The case for closing down the commission is presented in its January "Report to the President and the Congress."

With a crime wave paralyzing our cities, the first priority of the commission is "federal legislation to allow the Department of Justice to prosecute readily police officers who abuse their authority."

Why? Well, "civil disorders across the country have been triggered through violent treatment of minorities by law enforcement officials."

buchanan

The reference is, presumably, to Liberty City, a "disorder" triggered by the exoneration of several Miami police officers charged they engaged in an incident of brutality in which a black man died. But whatever "triggered" Liberty City, what transpired was a race riot in which thousands of looters participated, and several dozen engaged in acts of brutality and murder against victims whose dual offenses were that they were white and in the vicinity at the time.

For every minority member brutalized by police, a thousand are victims of black-on-black crime. And, apparently, the right to life of hundreds of thousands of crime victims, black and white, is of less moment to the USCCR than the handful of victims of "police abuse."

In the report, President Reagan is enjoined to nominate more women and minorities to "policymaking positions" in his administration, even though these are political and patronage jobs which belong, by right and tradition, to conservatives and Republicans who supported Ronald Reagan—not to ideological soulmates of the Commission on Civil Rights.

Congress, whose creature this surly little puppy is, comes in for instruction as well.

The commission is "alarmed" at the Eagleton-Biden Amendment which blocks HEW (now HHS) from terminating funds to school districts involved in desegregation cases where compliance would entail forced busing.

The commission condemns the Helms Amendment that Ronald Reagan endorsed—which would deny the Department of Justice funds to file desegregation suits that result in forced busing.

The commission opposes the Ashbrook-Dornan Amendments which tell the IRS to keep its tax-picking hands off private and parochial schools.

The commission directs the 97th Congress to take up the open housing amendments the 96th failed to enact, amendments which place the burden upon landlords and homeowners to demonstrate they are not bigots.

"Antidiscrimination efforts that supposedly guarantee 'neutrality' in employment decisions are inadequate to eliminate entrenched discrimination. In these circumstances, only affirmative measures that consider race,

sex or national origin in decisions affecting employment can succeed..."

Stated simply, the commission favors reverse discrimination and racial quotas.

For Ronald Reagan to implement the commission agenda would require the betrayal of his mandate. Which is the first reason the \$12 million USCCR should be abolished; there are others.

Its bureaucratic sins: a) redundancy and irrelevance, in that it has become the amen corner of the Black Caucus; b) arrogance, in that it assumes unto itself the role of ultimate arbiter, Grand Sanhedrin, of what is the only proper stance for those who support "civil rights"; c) obsolescence, in that it continues to advance ideas and causes that are the detritus of another decade.

Finally, the Commission on Civil Rights is essentially antidemocratic in that it insists that programs and policies continue to be pressed upon the American people who freely repudiated those programs and policies—and such people—in November.

For fear of the noisemakers, no Congress, no president has been willing to bite the bullet and shut down this sinecure. As a consequence, every president and Congress has had to listen to its biennial posturings as the "conscience of the nation." Mr. Reagan would be well-advised to take the heat now, claim economics as his argument, and put this national pest out of its misery.

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